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piv·ot

piv-ot (pĭv'ət) noun

- 1. A short rod or shaft on which a related part rotates or swings.
- 2. A person or thing on which something depends or turns; the central or crucial factor.
- 3. The act of turning on or as if on a pivot.

verb

piv-ot-ed, piv-ot-ing, piv-ots verb, transitive

- 1. To mount on, attach by, or provide with a pivot or pivots.
- 2. To cause to rotate, revolve, or turn.

verb, intransitive

To turn on or as if on a pivot: "The plot . . . lacks direction, pivoting on Hamlet's incertitude" (G. Wilson Knight).

[French, from Old French.]

--- piv'ot·a·ble adjective

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